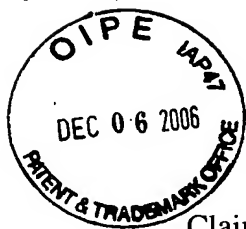




Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Fig. 2 and replaces the original sheet with Figs. 2 and 3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet



REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the drawings are amended and claims 1 and 11-14 are amended. No new matter is added.

An Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 was filed in the above-captioned patent application on March 26, 2004. Applicants have not yet received from the Examiner a copy of the Form PTO-1449 initialed to acknowledge the fact that the Examiner has considered the disclosed information. The Examiner is requested to initial and return to the undersigned a copy of the Form PTO-1449. For the convenience of the Examiner, a copy of the form is attached. An Information Disclosure Statement was also filed on September 25, 2006.

The drawings were objected to due to informalities in Fig. 2. Fig. 2 has been amended responsive to the Examiner's suggestion. We therefore request the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Fukunaga et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0174561). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to independent claim 11, Fukunaga does not teach a terminal device for use in combination with a sub terminal device wherein the terminal device comprises a data storing unit that stores request data and original data in association with the request data wherein the request data requests a sub terminal device to generate implementation data based on the original data.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Fukunaga teaches a sub terminal device (image server 111) connected to a main terminal device (center server) wherein the main terminal device comprises: a data storing unit (paragraph 84); a request storage commanding unit that receives commands from an external source and stores request data in the data storing unit (paragraph 84, line 3). However, Fukunaga does not teach request data and original data, in association with the request data, stored together on the data storing unit,

as recited in claim 11. In Fukunaga, images are stored on the center server 102 and image storage 611 without request data stored in association with it (paragraphs 84 and 152). Thus, in Fukunaga, the image data from which the print image register 601 generates display/edit images is stored in the image server 111 in advance, without relation to the print image acquisition request (refer to paragraph 131), while in amended claim 11, the original data is stored in the request storage commanding unit in association with the request data.

With respect to independent claim 12 and for similarly recited features in independent claims 13 and 14, Fukunaga does not teach request data and original data in association with the request data stored on a data storing unit. Furthermore, Fukunaga does not teach a data reading unit that reads original data and request data stored in the data storing unit whenever original data and request data are stored on the data storage unit, wherein the data storing unit is located on a main terminal device. With regard to the arguments regarding original data stored alongside request data see claim 11 above.

With regard to arguments regarding a data reading unit, on page 6 of the Office Action the Examiner concedes that Fukunaga does not disclose a data reading unit that reads the request data and associated original data stored on the data storing unit. In the Office Action, with regard to claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Iinuma discloses a data reading unit (paragraphs 2 and 27, computer 102 reading data from external storage unit 106). However, Iinuma does not remedy the deficiencies of Fukunaga with regard to claims 12-14, as Iinuma only discloses a system that may read data stored in a remote data storing unit but does not teach a data reading unit that reads the request data stored on the data storing unit whenever request data and original data are stored on the data storage unit.

We therefore respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-7 and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fukunaga et al. in view of Iinuma (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0032671). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Fukunaga does not teach wherein request data and original data in association with request data stored in a data storing unit. Furthermore, Fukunaga does not teach a data reading unit that reads original data and request data stored in a data storing unit whenever original data and request data are stored in the data storing unit. For arguments regarding the storage of request data and original data in association with the request data, see above with respect to independent claim 11. For arguments regarding a data reading unit that reads original data and request data when original data and request data are stored in a data storing unit, see above with respect to independent claims 12-14.

To further emphasize, Iinuma only discloses a system that may read data stored in a remote data storing unit. In contrast, claim 1 recites that the data reading unit reads the original data and the request data whenever the original data and the request data are stored in the data storing unit. Therefore, if original data and request data are stored in the data storing unit the data reading unit begins the process of reading whereas in Iinuma the process of reading is begun only if initiated by a user operated client computer (Iinuma, paragraphs 2 and 27).

Therefore, Iinuma does not teach the deficiencies of Fukunaga and therefore does not support a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Furthermore, the Examiner has failed to state a *prima facie* case for obviousness. Specifically, the conclusory statement in the Office Action that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Iinuma with Fukunaga "for the purposes of improving the cache hit ration," as cited in the third paragraph on page 6 of the Office Action, fails to provide a reasoned statement for the motivation to combine the references.

We therefore respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 8 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fukunaga in view of Iinuma and further in view of Tanaka et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0082001); and

claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fukunaga in view of Iinuma and further in view of Ogura et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0165800); and claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Fukunaga in view of Iinuma and further in view of Chen et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2006/0010229). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

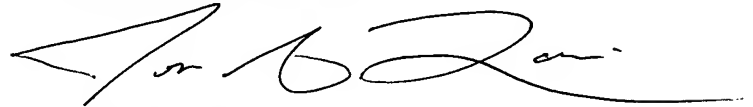
Tanaka, Ogura and Chen do not teach the deficiencies of Fukunaga and Iinuma as described above with respect to independent claim 1 as well as the further limitations contained therein. Therefore, they do not support a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

We therefore request the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

John A. Radi
Registration No. 59,345

JAO:JAR/jth

Attachments:

Replacement Sheet
Request for Continued Examination
Copy of Form PTO-1449 dated March 26, 2004

Date: December 6, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
